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13 March 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Brazil: Security forces are on the alert in Rio de Janeiro, where President Goulart is to address a massive leftist-sponsored rally planned for today.

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Leftist groups, [redacted] are making a strenuous effort to turn out a crowd of 50-70,000 people. Communist labor organizations are said to be planning to bring in several thousand of their members from neighboring states to participate in the rally.

Goulart's speech promises to lay heavy emphasis on the agrarian aspects of his basic reform program. He may add a flourish by signing a controversial land expropriation decree.

Meanwhile, the opposition to Goulart is being aroused by rumors that he might use the occasion to ask support for constitutional changes which will permit him to remain in power beyond the expiration of his term in January 1966, and will empower him to execute his reform measures. There are also indications that some rightist groups might try to disrupt the rally.

Local and national authorities are taking special precautionary measures to prevent or to contain any outbreak of violence at the rally. Governor Lacerda of Guanabara State (which includes the city of Rio), although a bitter Goulart foe, has urged rightists not to cause trouble. He is also turning out state security forces with instructions to keep order. Federal troops in the city have been placed on the alert.

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It may turn out that disturbances will occur elsewhere in the wake of the rally. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Communists are planning to incite peasants to seize private lands, citing the new expropriation decree as justification. Landowners, who apparently have wind of this, are said to be preparing to resist any incursion, by force of arms if necessary, [redacted]

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India: US Ambassador Bowles doubts, on the basis of a recent meeting with Nehru, that the 74-year-old leader can last long as an effective political force in India.

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Nehru has sharply curtailed his work load during his convalescence from a stroke in January, but he is still too active for his own good. He continues to appear frequently--if briefly--on the floor of Parliament, to take part occasionally in public ceremonies, and to see many visitors.

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Government business meanwhile is being handled by a cabinet committee system. Minister without Portfolio L. B. Shastri, who was brought in to handle Nehru's routine responsibilities, is coming to dominate the structure. He has assumed a strong role in Parliament, has developed effective working relations with party leaders, and was responsible for resolving the recent government crisis in Kashmir.

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NOTES

*India-Pakistan: The latest incident near the Kashmir cease-fire line--south of Jammu city--is the most serious in the past few months. India and Pakistan each claim the other has been attacking with artillery and heavy mortars. They agree that the fighting which has been going on intermittently since 5 March is serious, but UN observers on the scene expect that the action will remain localized.

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Cambodia: In statements since the sacking of the US and British embassies, Sihanouk has "renounced" a proposed quadripartite conference between Cambodia, the US, South Vietnam, and Thailand, as well as a broader international conference. Sihanouk blames the US for "obstructing" these projects. He now says that he will send a delegation to Hanoi to negotiate an agreement recognizing Cambodia's boundaries. If this delegation is successful, Cambodia will sign a treaty of friendship and recognize North Vietnam.

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Nationalist China: Security chief General Chiang Ching-kuo, elder son of Chiang Kai-shek, has been named deputy minister of national defense. Ching-kuo will have effective control of the ministry under the nominal defense minister, and the appointment acknowledges the authority he already holds over military planning. The appointment is another step in building up Ching-kuo's public position, looking toward his eventually succeeding his father.

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DAILY BRIEF

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES

The United States Intelligence Board approved the following national intelligence estimates on 11 March 1964:

SNIE 84-64: "The Short-Run Outlook in Panama"

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NIE 43-64: "Prospects for the Government of the Republic of China"

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DAILY BRIEF

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The Department of Defense

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The Secretary of the Navy
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The Director, The Joint Staff
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The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
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